

PERSISTENCE



To Graduation

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth

Over the past several decades, research has fundamentally changed our understanding of how adolescents—young people ages 10 to 25—develop, grow, and learn. Changes in brain structure and function afford young people a remarkable capacity to learn, adapt to changes, and explore their own creativity. Adolescent brains are uniquely fit to meet the needs of this stage of life, allowing them to explore new environments and build new relationships with the world and people around them. This [consensus study report “The Promise of Adolescence”](#) from the *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine* examines the neurobiological and socio-behavioral science of adolescent development and outlines how this knowledge can be applied, both to promote adolescent well-being, resilience, and development, and to rectify structural barriers and inequalities in opportunity, enabling all adolescents to flourish.

Within the [link](#), you will be able to read the report online, download a free PDF and also view various resources at a glance. There is also an [interactive overview of report findings](#). This [resource](#) focuses specifically on opportunities for the education sector with key findings and recommendations.

Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: This [resource page](#) from the Dibble Institute includes facts, webinars, state laws, case studies, and brief videos on this important topic.

Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates: Check out the *National Center for Education Statistics* reports, tables and maps for [latest national and state level trend data](#).

Transition into Adulthood: This [article](#) from the *Greater Good Science Center* describes ways we can support young people during their transition into adulthood.

Mindshift Quick Reads: Read [here](#) about how when teens share tech skills with seniors it helps both feel connected, and [here](#) about how “slow looking” can help students develop skills across discipline.

Hardwiring Happiness: Neuropsychologist and mindfulness instructor Dr. Rick Hanson describes how to cultivate resilience and happiness in [this video](#).

Re-engaging Disconnected Youth: The January issue of “Students and Schools: Moving Forward” from the [National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports at UCLA](#) focused on research and findings from the field around [re-engaging disconnected youth](#).

Understanding and Supporting Dyslexia: This [whitepaper](#) was designed to help form a deeper understanding of dyslexia and learn strategies for better supporting students through early screening, instruction and targeted intervention.

Training Guide for Administrators and Educators on Addressing Adult Sexual Misconduct in the School Setting: This [training guide](#) details the intricacies of adult sexual misconduct (ASM) in schools, which can include human trafficking. This guide is designed to be a resource for school officials to be able to identify signs of ASM and outlines the methods for addressing this occurrence.

Five Ways to bring Out the Best in Middle School Students: This [article](#) from ASCD shares practical ways teachers can positively support their middle school students.

Hammocks and Grief Baskets: [Read](#) this brief article describing how a Newark district supports students who are suffering.

High Employee Wellbeing and Performance: This [article](#) from *Gallop* describes the link between wellbeing and performance.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Webinars

Integrating Human Trafficking with Emergency Operations Plans for K-12 Schools: You can watch the [pre-recorded webinar](#) that was hosted by the U.S. DOE Office of Safe and Healthy Students here. They also include the slides and a resource list document.

Classroom Mental Health Strategies for Students and Teachers: You can [view this recorded webinar](#) that highlights strategies from *edweb*.

Bullying Prevention & Equity: In this webinar, *making the Connection: Embedding Equity & Culturally Responsive Practices in Bullying Prevention*, presenters from the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center will discuss the link between bullying, equity, and trauma. Dr. Darlene Sampson will begin the webinar by providing a context for the importance of embedding equity in bullying prevention programming. [Registration](#) is open for the webinar which will be held on February 19 from 2:00-3:00 PM (ET).

Strategies to Effectively Address Disparities in Mental Health: This webinar will be hosted by the Pacific Southwest MHTTC and will highlight the importance of increasing workforce diversity for achieving health equity. This session is geared towards those in mental health organizations who are interested in assessing the importance of a culturally responsive workforce and taking action. This [webinar](#) will take place on February 20 from 6:00-7:00 PM (ET).

Friendly and Fearless – Neuroplasticity and Inner Resources: An experiential, practical workshop for helping professionals about the use of positive neuroplasticity will be offered via webcast by Dr. Rick Hanson and Dr. Daniel Ellenberg with UC Berkley on February 21. If you are interested, you can [find more information and register](#).

Teen Mental Health: Supporting Schools and Expanding Resources: This webinar sponsored by NIHCM will explore cross-sector strategies to prevent teen substance use and suicide, the role

of school-based services in providing behavioral health care, and school connectedness as a protective factor. You can [register](#) for this webinar which will be held on February 24 from 3-4:30 (ET).

My Teacher Believes in Me – An Educators Guide to At-Promise Students: This webinar hosted by Reaching at Promise Students Association (RAPSA) will focus on the theory and practice of re-adjusting the educational system's understanding of marginalized youth from a deficit perspective to an asset perspective, in order to provide them with the opportunities they deserve, and acknowledge the potential they have to succeed. You can [register](#) for this webinar that will be held on February 28.

Broken Places: [Broken Places](#) explores why some children are permanently damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive. By revisiting some of the abused and neglected children we profiled decades ago, we're able to dramatically illustrate how early trauma shaped their lives as adults. The film interweaves these longitudinal narratives with commentary from a few nationally renowned experts to help viewers better understand the devastating impact of childhood adversity as well as the inspiring characteristics of resilience. The film will premiere on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) on April 6 7-8 (PT).

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts: *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

Conferences and Activities

Ready by 21 National Meeting in Louisville: The National Meeting by the Forum for Youth Investment will be held in Louisville April 15-17. Now in its ninth year, the [National Meeting](#) brings together more than 650 local, state, and national leaders who, like you, are committed to improving the odds that all children and youth can be ready for college, work, and life. These leaders manage change at all levels - from state policy coordination and community-wide cradle-to-career efforts to out-of-school time systems, single-issue coalitions, and neighborhood-based initiatives.

National Youth Employment Coalition and National League of Cities Re-Engagement Conference: This [conference](#) will be held June 22-23 in Nashville, TN. Participants will experience cutting-edge professional development, discuss best practices from around the country, learn about new efforts related to youth employment in the South, and problem-solve with colleagues.

Save the Date for the KY Persistence to Graduation Summit! The summit will be held July 8-9 in Lexington, KY and will focus on several key themes such as alternative education, student transition and re-engagement strategies, safe and supportive learning environments and more. Registration will open this Spring and will be posted in this E-news and on our Persistence to Graduation [webpage](#).

Kentucky Center for Mathematics Conference is scheduled for March 9-10, 2020 and will be held in Lexington, KY. For more information or to register visit their [conference webpage](#).

Kentucky Society for Technology in Education is scheduled for March 11-12, 2020 in Louisville, KY. For more information or to register visit their [conference webpage](#).

Thank you for all that you do!

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov. Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)